

# TEAM KIRTLAND volunteers celebrated June 4

**BY JENNIFER E. WEST**  
Nucleus staff writer

The appreciation for TEAM KIRTLAND volunteers was abundant at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Picnic, June 4, at the Rio Grande Community Center.

"There were so many extraordinary nominees," said Bethany Wetherell, Volunteer Resource Program manager and organizer of the event, which applauds Kirtland AFB's many volunteers. "The board members had a difficult time selecting just four Angel Awards."

Col. Steven Bower, 377th Air Base Wing vice commander, called all volunteers in service to the installation "a very special group of people who unselfishly give their time to make things better for a lot of different organizations around the base."

"Look around—you see them everywhere, whether in the clinic, working for our Red Cross, working for our retirees, the Family Support Center, for the Thrift Shop—you name it, they're all over the base, doing great work for a lot of people."

A special award of Retiree Activities Office's Volunteer of the Year was presented to retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Jones Hopkins for his "dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force" for his assistance to the retiree community and

the families.

Receiving the Volunteer Excellence Award were David B. Founds, El Hernandez, Edward J. Orbock, Bernice Reed and Harry Sherlock.

The recipients were given a certificate signed by Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, a Volunteer Excellence Award pin and gift certificate.

Recipients of the Angel Award are: David B. Founds, Sydna Meyer, Bernice Reed and Lt. Col. George Birsic.

Angel Award Team recipient was the Airman Leadership Academy with Master Sgt. Micheal DeHart and Staff Sgts. Richard Wright, Lorna Allen and Erin Landers.

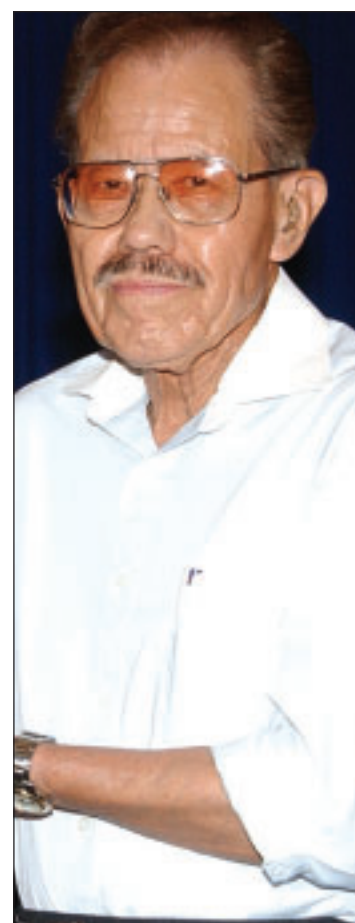
Each Angel Award recipient was given a blue stained glass angel handcrafted by Maj. Thomas McConnell, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, a certificate signed by Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, and a gift certificate.

At this year's ceremony, mistress of ceremonies was Jennifer Marlowe, a Miss Dona Ana County and Miss New Mexico contestant.

Miss Marlowe joined Senior Airman Keith Loudermill in performing the national anthem, along with announcing nominees and winners at the ceremony. The daughter of Doug Marlowe, Air Force Operational Test and Evalua-



**Bernice Reed**



**El Hernandez**



**Lt. Col. George Birsic**

## Angel Award nominees

**Lt. Col. Terry L. Schrum**  
**Army Maj. Kent Jones**  
**Capt. Michael Schneider**  
**Capt. Michael Warner**  
**1st Lt. Catercia S. Isaac**  
**1st Lt. Tony A. Murphy**  
**2nd Lt. Bryan Fram**  
**Master Sgt. William E. Hannah, Jr.**

**Staff Sgt. Damien Perez**  
**Georgiana Arvai**  
**Elise Chase**  
**Ariana Diaz-Lorenzo**  
**Krista Fisher**  
**Andrea Godbey**  
**Dee McConnell**  
**Wendy D. Riley**  
**Rosemary St. Johns**  
**Juanita Sanchez**  
**JoLynne Schneider**  
**Clara Torres**

tion Center, and Barbara Marlowe, she is a Student Temporary Employment Program employee at the Family Support Center.

Ceremony sponsors are: Kirtland Officers Spouses Club, Sandia Area Federal Credit Union, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the 377th Services Squadron, Rainbow Bread and Joe Duran of Coldwell Banker.

## Mentee enrollment now online

TEAM KIRTLAND military and civilian personnel are invited to enroll as mentees until June 15, by accessing the Mission-Driven Mentoring program at [www.3creekmentoring.com/USAFireForce/](http://www.3creekmentoring.com/USAFireForce/) and completing a mentee profile.

Mentees need to select "Mentee Login" and answer a few questions. New mentees should be sure to select "AFMC: Kirtland" under the "Command/Center:" heading. Under the "U.S. Mentee Group Code:" heading enter 198901.

The Mission-Driven Mentoring tool will provide

mentees with names of mentors whose experience and expertise match enabling them to initiate the mentoring relationship.

During Phase II of this initiative, interested potential mentors who may not yet have enrolled as mentors may do so.

Mentors need to enter "AFMC: Kirtland mentor code 409789" in the "Mentor Group Code" block.

Call Vita Kelley, 846-9561, or Mark Mora at 846-8957. The military point of contact is 2nd Lt. Benjamin Biddell, 846-7338.

# CHIEF'S SIGHT PICTURE

## *Adapting the AEF: longer deployments, more forces*

**BY. GEN. JOHN JUMPER**  
Air Force chief of staff

For the past 12 years, our Air Force has adapted to the demands of a changing world.

Beginning in the early 1990s, we developed composite wings, expeditionary organizations, and crisis-response packages that allowed us to rapidly deliver combat capability to combatant commanders. In 1998, we formalized the structure into 10 air expeditionary force packages.

These responsive air and space capabilities allow us to present forces in a consistent manner and conduct military operations across the spectrum of conflict.

Throughout the late 1990s, our AEF (air and space expeditionary force) concept of operations has proven itself time and again. Even with the high demands of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, our AEFs surged to support the combatant commanders' warfighting and deterrence missions, employing nearly eight AEFs of combat forces.

When major air and space operations diminished last year, we began the process of reestablishing the AEF battle rhythm. Our reconstitution target was March of this year, but the continued demands of global operations, additional contingencies in other theaters, and a tasking to support Army operations with 2,000 of our expeditionary combat support forces required us to reassess our planning assumptions, and to adjust our AEFs to a new mission set.

Simply put, the demands on our deployable forces have not diminished and are not expected to decline for some time. We have a new rotational requirement for nearly 20,000 Airmen—about three times the demand prior to September 11, 2001. Further, the Air Force component commander in the Central Command area of operations has asked us to deploy people for longer tour lengths to allow greater continuity for expeditionary commanders in the field.

To adapt to this new set of circumstances, I've directed a change to the AEF rotational cycle and have asked our major commands to expand the pool of deployable Airmen in each AEF.

Beginning with AEF Cycle 5 in September, the baseline deployment will be 120 days vice 90, and the AEF cycle will change from a 15-month rotational cycle to a 20-month cycle. We will continue to expect that each Airman will deploy only once during each cycle, although some stressed specialties will deploy longer, and in greater frequency, until manpower levels are adjusted or the theater requirements diminish.

For those already deployed in AEFs 7 and 8 (March through May) and those deploying in AEF 9 and 10 (June through August), it is our intent to stick to our 90-day deployment cycle. For those identified to deploy in AEF 1 and 2 (September through November), you should prepare to be gone a minimum of four months. This evolution of the AEF is not a temporary adjustment. More appropriately, it is recognition of new demands

around the world for air and space power.

It is important to remember several fundamental principles regarding our AEF concept of operations. First, we are not changing the basic composition of each AEF; each will continue to provide about five air expeditionary wings and six air expeditionary groups of capability during each vulnerability period. Our low density-high demand units will continue to follow DOD-approved deployment guidelines. Finally, Air Force global mobility forces will continue to follow our AEF Presence Policy, with mobility aviation units postured in multiple AEFs to support the U.S. Transportation Command mission and other combatant commander needs.

The 20-month cycle will continue to provide commanders and Airmen the ability to plan ahead, allowing a sense of predictability while providing greater continuity to the in-theater commander. Still, I recognize longer deployments will present challenges to our Reserve Component, possibly affecting the number of Air Reserve Component volunteers, and requiring selected use of presidential mobilization authority.

We will manage these matters very carefully, ensuring equity and fairness across the total force.

In addition to extending tour lengths, it is my intent to expand our pool of deployable Airmen from our current level of about 272,000. I have asked all of our major commands to aggressively review the assumptions

upon which they exclude Airmen from our AEFs and take immediate steps to maximize those postured in the Air Force Worldwide Unit Type Code System and our AEF libraries.

The MAJCOMs will posture the maximum number of manpower authorizations into standard UTCs, and if required, we will develop new ones to provide additional expeditionary capabilities. Residual authorizations will be postured into associated UTCs and will be coded to support AEF requirements across the range of military operations.

Let me be perfectly clear—in our Air Force, every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman will know his or her place in the AEF system, and every Airman will be prepared to support the combatant commander, whether deployed, in the continental United States via reachback, or employed at home station. If you are wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force, you are a part of the AEF.

We are at war today, and will remain engaged around the globe against a brutal and resilient enemy. Every Airman—active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian—must be focused on our national commitment to the Global War on Terrorism. Our job is to deploy and deal with terrorists wherever they are in the world so we never again have to deal with them on our own soil. You will be the difference between our success and failure in this vital cause.

Once again, I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, professionalism, and service to our nation.